

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Call to Order

The January meeting of the East Greenwich School Committee was held on Tuesday,

February 1, 2005 in the gymnasium of the Hanaford School. Chair Vincent Bradley called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Also present were: Vice chair Paul Martin, Dr. Al Ross, Steven Gregson, Merrill Friedemann, Sue Cienki and William Day. Dr. Michael Jolin, Superintendent, Helen O'Hara, Assistant Superintendent, and Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration, were also present. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

3. Recognitions

4. Public Comments

Christopher Boie, high school Math teacher, spoke about the ventilation system at the high school, noting that air blows from the front of the room and there is no on or off switch or temperature gauge. He also spoke about two health issues with students at the high school, cutting and anorexia. He suggested that a full-time counselor be hired because this is a growing problem and only a professional can adequately address these issues during the school

day.

Amanda Pretto, grade six teacher at Hanaford School, stated that she is in her second year at Hanaford and she cannot survive on a salary of \$400 per week. She noted that she spends 15 to 20 hours per week planning, grading, etc. She also stated that East Greenwich should be made more attractive to teachers.

Noelle Minardi, grade six teacher at Hanaford School, stated that she has been teaching for four years and it is difficult to be a beginning teacher. She noted that she is pursuing her master's degree in Special Education and has to work a second job. She feels that many qualified teachers will move away from East Greenwich.

Kathy Wein, parent of a Cole 8th grader, asked if Cole was going to take part in the Spelling Bee this year. Dr. Jolin stated that he will look into it.

Celia Schnacky, Science teacher at the high school, stated that she loves her job and there is no need for the School Committee and teachers to be adversaries because the school relationship is crucial. She noted that the solution to the problem is somewhere in the problem.

5. Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes for approval.

6. Advisory or Subcommittee Reports

Dr. Ross stated that a Property Subcommittee meeting was recently held and one of the issues mentioned was the boiler at Cole. A

decision has to be made to save it, repair it, or replace it. The cost could range from \$25,000 to \$100,000.

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7. Communications to the School Committee

There were no communications to the School Committee.

Attendance Reports

There were no attendance reports.

9. Financial Reports

There were no financial reports.

10. New Business

10.1 Personnel considerations – There were no personnel considerations.

10.2 Approval of club status for the high school crew club

Dr. Jolin stated that the crew club needs to be recognized as a club by the School Committee since club status would place students under the school department's insurance policy. Mrs. Crawford stated that anything sanctioned by the School Committee is covered by the school department's insurance. Mrs. Crawford will have the insurance on file at the school department offices. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to approve club status for the high school crew club. The motion passed unanimously

11. Old Business

11.1 Vote on School Committee Procedures and Policies

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve the procedures and policies for the East Greenwich School Committee as amended. Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve the procedures and policies as amended. The motion as amended passed unanimously.

11.2 Vote to approve a Personnel Subcommittee

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to table the approval of a personnel subcommittee. The motion to table passed unanimously.

12. Reports to the School Committee

12.1 Budget Revisions for fiscal year 2004-2005

Mrs. Crawford stated that the school budget was cut by \$335,000 at the financial town meeting and then another \$62,000 was cut, but a truck was still funded out of the truck replacement fund. She stated the final budget number was \$26,997,880. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to accept the reconciliation of the 2004-2005 budget. The motion passed unanimously.

13. School Committee Concerns

Mrs. Cienki stated that the music department and parents need to get together before February 15th. Dr. Jolin stated that this is being worked on internally. Dr. Jolin also stated that the School Committee cannot negotiate with individual members of the bargaining unit.

Mr. Bradley mentioned a mold problem at Hanaford. He also suggested having School Committee meetings in the high school auditorium.

14. School Committee Procedural Business

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There was no procedural business

15. Reminder List

Mr. Bradley asked to have the items mentioned at this meeting added to the reminder list.

16. Visits to Schools

Mr. Martin stated that he is visiting Frenchtown next week and Dr. Jolin stated that he is going to Hanaford for a meeting to review traffic issues.

Mrs. Ellen Shanos asked about the school visits. Mr. Martin stated that it is an opportunity to observe the educational process going on in the classroom, with feedback given to the principals. He stated that if he sees something that needs addressing, he would come back to the Superintendent.

17. Public Comments

A parent noted that the School Committee could get a more accurate picture of what goes on if they don't announce their visits to the schools.

Elaine Moscardi, English teacher and East Greenwich parent, invited

the School Committee to visit anytime but stated that an evaluation of the classroom could be problematic. She asked them to put the evaluation into context.

Pamela Testoni spoke about a problem at Hanaford with classroom doors being closed because of the new fire codes. She noted that there are heat regulation issues, the classrooms are too hot, and circulation is very poor. She stated that there is a need to look at fans and a way to circulate air. She also invited School Committee into the classrooms.

Mr. David Chamberlain noted that the State of Rhode Island rushed a law through after the station Fire, and the law needs defining.

Mrs. Cienki introduced the new lawyers, Matthew Oliverio, Raymond Marcaccio and Christine Curley from the law firm of Oliverio and Marcaccio. She also noted that Attorney Vincent Ragosta would be working on the Vincent Bradley case. Mrs. Cienki noted that the law firm would be working for a flat fee of \$65,000 per year.

18. Executive Session

On a motion made by Mrs. Friedemann and seconded by Mr. Gregson, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. under R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2) for contract negotiations.

Virginia Giuliani
Secretary